

Ch. 15 Smartboard lessons.notebook

Day 4

Absolutism

Entrance task: Think: What gives a person power over you?

What type of power would absolute rulers have over their people?

Today: Absolutism in France

Homework: Finish Ch. 15-2

The Absolute State

- monarchs ruled by divine right
- sovereignty = the ruler
- regulated religious sects
- abolished some liberties
- allied with nobility

The Absolute State

- solution to economic problems was the key to the monarch's power and success
- bureaucrats served the king, not themselves
- permanent standing army
- secret police

Henry IV r. 1589-1610



Henry IV



Duke of Sully

- first to establish the **Bourban** family
- began to curtail privileges of the French nobility (**the paulette**)
- Protestant but converted to Catholicism in 1593 because, "Paris is worth the Mass."
- issued the **Edict of Nantes**
- the **Duke of Sully** – finance minister – revived royal authority
- collected taxes to pay for a standing army, consolidated justice, repaired roads, encouraged new business ventures, kept the peace
- Assassinated in 1610 & succeeded by his 9-year-old son (Louis XIII)

Louis XIII r. 1610 – 1643



- King at age 9
- French nobles and the Huguenots tried to press for their own interests at the expense of royal authority
- **Marie de Medici**, the queen mother, engaged the assistance of **Cardinal Richelieu** to serve as Louis' chief minister in 1628

Cardinal Richelieu



- Richelieu reduced power and influence of nobility
- destroyed fortified castles
- established 32 districts run by **intendants** to enforce royal orders and weaken the nobility in the district
- deprived Huguenots of fortified cities



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Cardinal Richelieu

- led France into the **Thirty Years' War** in support of **Protestant cause** in order to defeat its Catholic Habsburg rivals who ruled Austria and Spain
- only one law – the king's



Louis XIII



Richelieu

Louis XIII



- By 1648, France was the most powerful country on the continent
- **Cardinal Mazarin** succeeded Richelieu and continued the same policies
- the **Fronde** – 1648-1653 protests – began in provinces as civil wars against taxation and growing royal power, frightening young Louis XIV (Louis XIII died in 1643)



Louis XIV

Became king at age 4 after the death of his father, Louis XIII in 1643

Louis' mother, **Anne of Austria** served as the regent, but Cardinal **Mazarin** was the real ruler of France until his death in 1661



Accomplishments & events of his reign

- Longest reign in European history – 54 years
- Fought in many wars – 33/54 years @ war
- Increased army by 4X
- Domesticated the nobility @ Versailles

Examples of Absolute rule

- Ruled alone
- Continued Richelieu's expansionism
- Ordered nobles to live at Versailles
- Reorganized the army
- Revoked Edict of Nantes
- Supported & promoted the arts



Louis XIV
r. 1661-1715

Wars

- At war with much of Europe at one time or another, often against coalitions
- Threatened the European balance of power
- War of the League of Augsburg (1689-1697) – ended the dream of expanding to France's 'natural borders'
- War of Spanish Succession – 1701-1713

Personal characteristics

- Child king guided by Mazarin until age 23
- Inspired by the Fronde as a child, distrusted nobility
- The Sun King - "I am the state"
- Believed in divine right
- Devout Catholic
- Mercantilist

Personal Characteristics

"*L'état, c'est moi*" - "I am the state"—Louis used this expression to describe his role

What does this say about his view of himself?

Extravagant lifestyle—Louis XIV spent royal money on lavish meals, clothing and palaces

Every morning, his nobles would be waiting to dress him when he awoke. If a noble was not there, Louis XIV considered him unimportant

Louis XIV r. 1643-1715

- represented the height of absolutism
- claimed to rule by divine right – the Sun King
- countless wars left France deeply in debt and eventually to the collapse of the French monarchy in the 18th century
- kept enemies (nobility) close at hand at Versailles
- established councils of upper middle class
- never called the Estates General
- Louis XIV **revoked Edict of Nantes** in 1685

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Events of His Reign

- ✧ Peace of Westphalia in 1648 officially ended the powers of the Holy Roman Empire
- ✧ Louis then began increasing his central control of the government
- ✧ Tried to make France economically self-sufficient with the help of **Jean Baptiste Colbert** (minister of finance)
 - ◆ Gave government support to French companies
 - ◆ Encouraged Mercantilism (people moved to Canada to provide fur for manufacturing and a market for goods)



Accomplishments

- ✧ Appointed **intendants** to collect taxes, recruit soldiers and administer royal policies
- ✧ Taxed businesses, promoted trade and established high tariffs to promote his government
- ✧ Reorganized the French army and increased its size to 400,000 troops
- ✧ Encouraged the exploration and settlement of Canada in order to give France more territory

✧ Palace of Versailles

- ◆ Louis made Versailles the center of his government (12 miles from Paris)
- ◆ Most of the French nobles lived with him at Versailles
- ◆ Why do you think Louis XIV required most of the nobility to reside at Versailles?
- ◆ What was Louis' purpose in building the palace so luxuriously?

- ✧ In order to accomplish all of these things, Louis XIV spent enormous amounts of money

- ◆ By the end of his reign in 1715, the debt of the Royal family was about 2.1 trillion dollars

- ✧ Are expenditures an example of absolutism?

✧ Increased interest in the arts

- ◆ Danced the title role in the ballet, *The Sun King*
- ◆ The purpose of art changed since the Middle Ages and the Renaissance
 - What was the new purpose of art?
 - ◆ To glorify the monarch

Louis XIV's Absolute Qualities

- ✧ Which of the notes on your pictograph qualify Louis XIV as an absolute monarch?



Absolutism

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